

**Chapters 1-3**

**Reading Check/Comprehension Check Questions:**

1. What shows that the Watsons are not well off financially? Support your answer with a page number.
2. Why does Momma get angry at Dad when the weather turns cold?
3. Why doesn't Kenny respond immediately to his older brother's appeals for help as they remove ice from the car?
4. How do the two brothers show that they care for one another?
5. How does Kenny earn the nickname "Poindexter"?
6. Why does Kenny think the new boy on the bus will be his personal savior?
7. Why does Kenny let Rufus play at his house after school? Why won't Rufus come to Kenny's house?

**Discussion Questions**—Support your opinions with examples from the text.

1. Do you think the Watsons would have considered themselves poor? Why?
2. Do you think Momma should have fond memories of Birmingham? Why or why not?
3. Do you agree with Kenny that being very smart in school can create enemies?
4. Why do you think so many boys in school teased Kenny as well as the new boy and his brother?
5. Do you think Momma was a good judge of character? Why or why not?
6. What lesson do you think Kenny learned from Rufus?

## Literary Focus Questions

**Directions:** Read each topic and explanation below. Then, write a response to each question. Restatement of the Question ("ROQ") is NOT necessary here.

1. Hook—In literature, a hook is an interesting first sentence or paragraph in a novel that entices a reader into the story. Reread the first paragraph of the novel. Use a pen to draw a bracket in its margin and mark it "hook". How does this hook draw you into it?
2. Allusion— An allusion is a reference to a famous historical, mythological, religious or literary person or event. It helps provide additional information about the subject being referred to the allusion.  
(In Greek mythology, Narcissus was a handsome young man who was doomed because he fell in love with his own reflection.) When Byron was frozen to the car mirror, Joey said it reminded her of the story of "Nar-sissy." How does this allusion add to your understanding of Byron's character?
3. Point of View- Which point of view has the author chosen for this novel? What are the advantages of this point of view? Are there limitations to this point of view? (Of course there are—explain.)
4. The setting refers to the time and place the events occur. What is the setting of this novel? (Remember to draw a box/square around evidence of setting in your book while taking annotated notes.)
  - A. How do Kenny's dinosaur wars help to establish the time of this novel?
5. Write the **example and page number** where you find at least one example of each figurative language device. Make sure your examples cover all three chapters. (Also remember to properly annotate these in your book by highlighting them and marking a <sup>subscript</sup> letter representing O for onomatopoeia, M for metaphor, etc.
  - A. Metaphor—
  - B. Simile—
  - C. Personification—
  - D. Hyperbole—
  - E. Onomatopoeia —
6. Language Connection—A **dialect** is a regional variation in language that may endure for generations. (For example, "the Cleveland A" or the New "YO-rk.") **Slang** refers to colorful, informal expressions which may be playful or abusive—it can also be a form of dialect. (For example, "Hit me up later" which actually means "Call me later"; or "That's rad" which means "That is interesting or fascinating.") Slang terms go out of style very quickly and are replaced with other slang terms. The characters in this novel use both dialect and slang.

Look back in these chapters to find examples of dialect. Copy it and the page number where you found it. If you can interpret its intended meaning, try it! ☺